

Acting Chief, FBID

17 October 1961

Chief, Field Operations Staff

Letter of Information Notes - September 1961

1. When reporting on new press transmissions, bureaus are requested to include all important characteristics such as mode of transmission, words per minute, type of frequency shift, cycles per second, bauds, and other technical data which might be useful in evaluating the technical requirements for added coverage. Bureaus are also requested to supply this information for transmissions listed in the Foreign Press Transmission Schedules Book

2. Bureaus are commended for their rapid and accurate reporting of the 10 October Soviet International service program and frequency changes.

3. Because of high level interest in Soviet International radio teletype transmissions, it has been decided that additional efforts should be made to check all known services and to cruise for any new services. As a first step, Hokkaido Bureau is being supplied the necessary equipment to undertake a survey of its area.

4. African Bureau

arrived at the African Bureau and inaugurated a training program. Some coverage adjustments have been made to achieve maximum effect for this program.

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5. Key West Post

Due to the extensive reorganization being accomplished by Cuban domestic service broadcast system, which has resulted in many changes, a BIS representative will be sent to Key West to observe and assess this situation.

BJK/gaz

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Chief, FBID

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16 October 1961

Following are items submitted by the Broadcast Information Section/FOS for possible inclusion in October Letter of Information:

✓ 1. Field bureaus are to be commended for their rapid and accurate reporting of the 10 October Soviet international service program and frequency changes. The quick response has enabled the BIS to develop a fairly complete picture of the new Moscow schedule which includes significant increases in such languages as Albanian, Swahili, Amharic, English and French for Africa, and changes in several other services.

2. The Cuban domestic radio broadcasting system has been undergoing extensive reorganization during the past month which has resulted in many changes in networking, frequencies, names, and in the suspension of some stations. As a direct result, the East Coast Bureau is now limited to coverage of one Cuban domestic network on shortwave since the other networks now use only mediumwave frequencies. The burden of mediumwave coverage is thus placed on the Key West Post. A cruising monitor from the BIS will be given TDY at Key West in November to aid in the evaluation of the many changes in frequencies, programming, coverage, etc.

✓ 3. In the future, field bureaus, when reporting ^{*To FOS or BIS*} on new press transmissions, should include all important characteristics such as mode of transmission, words per minute, type of frequency shift, cycles per second, bauds, and any other technical data that might be useful to the BIS and Engineering Staff in evaluating technical needs for added coverage. Such information should be forwarded for all transmissions not currently listed with such characteristics in the Foreign Press Transmission Schedules book.

4. FBIS coverage of West Africa was further ^{*increased*} ~~added~~ in October with the addition of a four-hour radioteletype retransmission by Cable and Wireless of London of a Ghana News Agency English service for West Africa. The service is monitorable at the East Coast Bureau, ~~which is not~~ This is one of the first local African news agencies providing an extensive radioteletype service.

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2 October 1961

ATTN : Chief, FBIS
: Chief, Field Operations Staff
: Chief, Tokyo Bureau

Reporting of Suspended Bloc Broadcasts

REF : Letter of Information, 21 August 1961, page 5, paragraph 3

1. Tokyo Bureau agrees with the need cited in the reference for care in reporting suspension of important Bloc broadcasts, and it has therefore reviewed Bureau handling of the cited Moscow via Peking program. No appreciable lack of care has been found; TK 603 and TK 605 only stated that coverage had been lost on non-appearance of the show at the scheduled time and that cruising of other times was so far nonproductive. It is assumed to be understood that cruising capability does not exist for a complete listening check of all possible times in a seven day week (in this case about 315 hours or 8 man-weeks for the three Peking domestic services), and Bureau suggestion of a possible time change along with a request for cruising assistance underscored this.

2. While program previews are an aid to location of such lost programs, they cannot always be regarded as proof of the show taking the air. Tokyo Bureau has observed that the Moscow via Peking show is not always aired as announced in the program preview of the same day. Similarly, it is well known that listing of a program in a published schedule is no proof the show is aired. Conversely, omission from a preview or published schedule, nor anything short of total observation, fails to prove that a show does not exist.

3. Therefore, in any situation as elusive as this, unless FBIS is in a position to conduct a complete listening check it is speculation rather than fact to assert without qualification that something is off the air (or on the air). At best it could only have been stated that Moscow via Peking was either eliminated or downgraded to a level difficult to detect. Both field and Headquarters have a responsibility to guard against unobjective reporting; the former by clearly identifying incomplete reporting or speculation, and the latter by careful interpretation of field reports. If any missing broadcast is considered important enough to warrant a complete listening check, it is recommended that Headquarters authorize temporary adjustment of field commitments to permit accomplishment.

cc: Chief, Editorial Br.
: Chief, Radio Propaganda Br.

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